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and Barnes, were granted by patent to Sir Arthur Chichester, and by him to one of the officers in his regiment; at length it was conveyed by assignment to the family of Upton, and by them to the family of Rowley.

The name of the townland of Kilgreel, is from a church near Roughfort, signifying the church of the dagger. This parish is called Carngraney, from a curious ancient stone building near it, like an ancient cromieach, or altar, raised upon stone supporters. These large stones were twelve in number ranged from S.E. to N.W. that one toward the west, is six or seven feet high, that to the east, nearly on the ground; they appear like steps of stairs, gradually rising from east to west. The name of this I think is *Carne Greiné*, or the cairn of the sun.

Near this is an ancient mount supposed to be intended for a large temple, on which the surrounding inhabitants worshipped the sun; adjoining are several fortifications very different from the round raths of the Irish, and are probably Danish. On the rising ground, we have a view of the church and mount of *Donnegorr*, or the goat mount; and of the beautiful valley in the bottom of which runs the six-mile water; so called, because the road from Carrickfergus to Antrim, either touches it, or is near it, at that distance from this ancient fort. Templepatrick, once a beautiful village was mostly burnt by the Monaghan Militia the day after Antrim fight. This vicarage once, the property of the knights of St. John, is now united to Antrim. Three towns adjoining were granted by deed by Sir Arthur to Humphry Norton, who built the castle here, and gave it the name of Castle Norton, this district in the county book is the district of Castle Norton. We next passed the six-mile water, anciently *Owen Neview* (the river of the woods) at Dunethery, where a beautiful mount is planted with trees, the name signifies the middle mount being in the middle of the valley: this is in the grange of Naiteen; near this is an ancient Church in ruins, to what monastery it was attached is uncertain.

On the north side of the river the road passes through Island-ban, one

of the eight towns of Muckmore. The other seven towns are on the south side of the six mile water. Colman obtained a grant of this district called Elo, from the O'Neils, at a meeting in Tara, in the year 550: hence his name is Colman Elo. He founded a famous monastery in this place which has been called Muckmore; I think corrupted from the true dedication, not to saints or angels, but to *Mochd mór*, the great, great, or very great One.

These eight towns were granted by James I. to Sir Roger Langford about the year 1639, they are now part of the property of the family of Massareene.

When near Antrim we have a view of a round tower entire, which has been built on the plan of the ancient round towers of Ireland, supposed to have been places for preserving the sacred fire of the country. There was adjoining this tower a monastery called *Entroia*, a supposed improvement of the name Antrim, which signifies the caves of the sorcerers.

The town was once a flourishing place with two excellent fairs held on the 12th of May and 12th of November, and a good market every week on Thursday; but since the non-residence of the Massareene family it has been declining: Randalstown and Ballymena have succeeded to most of its trade and manufactures. On the south side of the river adjoining Antrim was the little monastery of Massareene, from *Masrain*, a beautiful portion, this small district was granted to Sir Arthur by James the first, and is still part of the estate of the Donegail family. The inhabitants of this beautiful and fruitful vale, between Carrickfergus-bay, and Lough-neagh, are almost universally Protestant dissenters.

I inquired why Senex did not publish an ancient and modern history of the County. He answered such is daily expected from the Literary Society of Belfast.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for June last, I was gratified to see some experiments upon the hydrometer, published

by Job Rider. The author was very brief, so much so, that I could have wished to have seen the different things better explained; and from the conclusion of your Magazine for August last, I expected to have had some rational and candid observations upon the same subject; but when I came to peruse the piece signed Mechanicus, in the Magazine for September last, I was much disappointed.

Mechanicus "should first have taken his ground deliberately, and made himself acquainted previously," before he wrote upon a subject that he seems not quite acquainted with.

Through the medium of your Magazine, I beg leave to offer the following observations, in support of that truth which Mechanicus seems not to have rightly understood.

Mechanicus informs us, that hydrometers ought to be made with small stems for accuracy, and immediately after condemns small stems, because they cannot be divided upon the stem, and the range will be so limited as to render it nearly useless. Had Mechanicus been "a discerning artist," he might have known that such hydrometers have met with general approbation (where accuracy is required) as the range can be increased by weights; also, many of the most accurate hydrometers have no figures marked on the stem. This knowledge would not only have saved him any farther demonstration, but have taught him also the use of what he calls "this warm water thermometer," viz. "what care is necessary for observing the temperature of the fluid, before its specific gravity can be correctly known." But I also am of a decided opinion, that this does not apply that a new discovery is made, but an useful caution is certainly given; as such I took it at first, and do think most candid readers would understand it in like manner. But Mechanicus seems to have had as little reason as candour, which will appear from the following observations: "Mr. R. observing the hydrometer he had made, so very sensible in showing the different specific gravity of fluids, seems to have applied it to the old and well known fact, viz. were two bodies balanced in a pair of scales, in air, water, or spirits, &c. when these two bodies are very differ-

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ent in size, they will lose the balance in another medium of different density. Whether this was Mr. R's datum or not I cannot say, but his application is much the same. Mr. R. places a large glass bubble, hermetically sealed, on the top of the stem of the hydrometer (see the figure in the Magazine for last June) and adjusts it in water to stand at the height required, having the lower ball immersed in water, and the glass or air-ball, in the air, with a small stem connecting the two balls together; it is easy to conceive was this hydrometer so adjusted, and to be placed under the receiver of an air-pump, and the air partly exhausted, the air-ball would sink, because the medium the air-ball is in, in this case, will become lighter; but should the air be condensed, it would rise, because the medium would be specifically heavier; comparatively the same as an egg will sink in fresh water, and swim in pickle, because the salt makes the water heavier. Every buoyant body will carry or bear the weight of the water removed by the body: for instance, should the body and balance of an hydrometer weigh two ounces, and the weight of the water, when it is immersed therein, be equal to five ounces, it will take three ounces to sink it; and suppose three ounces to be the weight of a glass bubble placed as before mentioned, the active weight of this bubble to sink the body, will vary in weight by the different specific gravity of the air, the same as the bulk of air removed by the glass bubble varies, and occasion the hydrometer to sink deeper, or rise higher, according to the change which takes place in the air. But what says Mechanicus: "this is impossible," because glass is heavier than the air. He might also have said, with the same propriety, that a ship cannot have masts, because wood, &c. is also heavier than air. This kind of philosophy I must leave to Mechanicus to give a name. The reason and candour displayed by him can best be known by comparing his remarks, and note upon this head, contained in the Magazine before mentioned; and I will leave the candid reader to judge who the words Mechanicus applies to Mr. R. suit best; viz. "how has it happened, that an absurdity so glaring should escape the

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notice of an observing artist?" The rhapsody made use of by Mechanicus prevents me from following him any farther, to give room for a few observations of my own: Having tried the water barometer, as described in fig. 2, (see Magazine for June last) and have found, by repeated trials, a proportion between the body B. and the air in the small vessel—that seem to be correct, and to answer what Mr. R. proposes, viz. that it did neither rise nor fall between the temperature of 55 degrees of Fahrenheit's scale and 70; and I have found a size for a stem that also answers my expectation; but at first I made the stem too small, the consequence was that it could not be balanced, so as to stand at a mean height, but would either sink or swim, and stand at no other place than the top or bottom. But two difficulties, arise, and remain with me, one is, how to adapt a scale to it, so as to correspond with a mercurial barometer; the other still appears to me equally as difficult, to get air to preserve the same proportion, and not diminish in bulk. I would mention the proportions I have already found, and the kind of air I used; but hope that Mr. R. will give some more information, being thankful for his hints already given; and I think much better of this water barometer than as a "visionary toy." M.D.C.

Dublin, Oct. 7.

Remarks on the letter of M.D.C.

In reply to what M.D.C. has stated in part of his letter, of an apparent inclination against Mr. Rider in the Conductors of the Magazine, we can assure him he is totally mistaken; that on the contrary, our care to prevent his feelings being wounded needlessly, was so great, that we cut out so many passages of the first paper sent us by Mechanicus on the subject, which we thought would have that tendency, that Mechanicus sent to demand his paper back again: with the following observations annexed to it, which, as expressing the opinions of the Proprietors on the point of managing disputed subjects in our work, we take this opportunity to insert:

The second paper sent us by Mechanicus is that inserted in the last

number; but from this also we pruned some asperities, though in general it was so much more moderate than the first as to make this less necessary. For the same reason stated in the annexed observations, we have omitted an irritating paragraph at the end of the letter of M.D.C. On most subjects stated in the Magazine, the necessity of free and impartial discussion is obvious; we take no part on either side, but as moderators of that warmth which controversy of any kind is too apt to excite; but if partiality is at all justifiable, it is on the side of those who favour us with original papers, and such the Editor at least acknowledges he felt in favour of Mr. Rider's communication for this reason.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PAPER OF MECHANICUS FIRST SENT.

Mr. Rider has not stated that the stem of his hydrometer was made of glass, as here asserted; the stem of it was probably of wire or thin brass, of which only the thickness is stated without mentioning the breadth. Several rough expressions of Mechanicus have been omitted; such are at least useless on most subjects, but on those of the nature of this paper are peculiarly objectionable, and have the less excuse, as these subjects contain nothing to excite the passions. If our Correspondents would in future consider this, they would much oblige us, and would save to themselves the trouble of writing what cannot be inserted, and to us, that of erasing it.

For the above reasons, two of the author's notes have been omitted also; in the first we agree with him that the word barometer is preferable to baroscope, from its being more in use, but object to the language in which this observation is conveyed. The other note is a personal reflection, and contains nothing to illustrate the subject.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

An Account of the progress of Joseph Lancaster's plan for the Education of poor Children, and the training of Masters for country Schools.

IN the year 1798 Joseph Lancaster opened a school in St. George's-fields, for the education of the chil-